

FRANCHISE NO. 17445

On June 5, 2000, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) filed a petition, identified as Docket No. E-21451, with the Utilities Board (Board), for a franchise to erect, maintain, and operate 10.07 miles of 72,500-volt maximum voltage transmission line pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 478 (2001). Upon notice in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 478 (2001), the Board found the petition should be granted and a franchise issued to NIPCO.

Pursuant to the order of the Board and Iowa Code chapter 478 (2001), this franchise is issued and permission and authority are granted to NIPCO to erect, maintain, and operate a transmission line on routing specifically described for the transmission, distribution, use, and sale of electric current outside cities and town and for such purpose to erect, use, and maintain poles, wires, guy wires, towers, cables, conduits, and other fixtures and appliances necessary for conducting electric current for light, heat, and power, over, along, and across any public lands, highways, streams, or the lands of any person, company, or corporation and to acquire necessary interest in real estate for such purposes on and along the route particularly described in Exhibit A, attached to and incorporated by reference in this franchise.

This franchise is granted for a period of 25 years from the date of issuance unless revoked, modified, or terminated pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 478 (2001). This franchise shall be subject to and governed by all provisions, conditions, and requirements of Iowa Code chapter 478 (2001) and by all provisions, conditions, and

requirements of the Utilities Board, as may be applicable. If the facilities authorized by this order are not built in whole or in part within two years from the date of the order granting the franchise, this franchise shall be revoked unless NIPCO petitions the Board for an extension of time pursuant to Iowa Code § 478.21 (2001).

During the period of time this franchise is in force, the use of the right of eminent domain is not necessary and, therefore, not included by the Board in its order granting this franchise.

It is provided and understood this franchise is granted subject to the provisions of Iowa Code § 319.5 (2001).

It is further provided and is a condition of this franchise that the Board retain jurisdiction and may at any time during the period of this franchise make such further orders and regulations as may be necessary.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms
Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 3rd day of August, 2001.